Panchayats which are likely to be provided with atleast one telephone by the end of 31st, December, 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): A Plan has been made to extend telephone facility to 5000 Nos. of Gram Panchayats by the end of 31st December, 1990.

Sri Lankan Refugees

1864. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of Sri Lankan refugees who have been living in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have provided suitable rehabilitation for those refugees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) The total number of Sri Lankan refugees in India at present is 93,576. Of these, 5359 are lodged in relief camps in Tamil Nadu and Orissa and the rest are on their own.

(b) and (c) As Sri Lankan refugees are not Indian citizens and are required to be sent back to Sri Lanka in due course, measures for their rehabilitation in India are not required to be taken. However, so far an expenditure of Rs. 15.08 crores has been incurred on relief measures upto 31-12-1989.

Extension of President's rule in Punjab

1865. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL; SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend President's Rule in Punjab beyond 11th May, 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government would solve the issue of Punjab by Constituting the State Assembly and if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME" AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) to (c) The question of holding elections to the Punjab State Legislative Assembly or to extend President's Rule in Punjab which will require further amendment of the Constitution, is under consideration of the Government.

Talks with Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary

1866. DR. RATNAKARPANDEY: SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lanka Foreign Secretary, Mr. Tilakratna visited New Delhi for discussions with him, on the 8th February, 1990; and

(b) if so, what precise issues were discussed with him and what was the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir; the discussions were mainly with our foreign Secretary.